

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste
Management Task Force

Minutes of May 20, 2021

Los Angeles County Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

WEB CONFERENCE

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Nick Morell, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
Teri Muse, Waste Management
Kimberly Nilsson, Solid Waste Solutions
Angela Williams, City of Inglewood
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Vanessa Olivas, Los Angeles County Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Chanel Kincaid, City of Santa Monica
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT

Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mike Mohajer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2021 meeting was made by Ms. Kimberly Nilsson and seconded by Mr. Nick Morell. The motion passed with one abstention.

III. NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The following articles were provided to the Subcommittee for review:

- Update on Los Angeles County Green Zone Ordinance
- Los Angeles County Partners with Businesses to Promote Recycled-Content Products
- California Climate Action Corps Fellows Assist with Edible Food Recovery Project
- The New Price of Plastic
- Easy Way to Exchange Goods
- Senate Bill 1383 Regulations Update

Mr. Mohajer stated that the winter and spring editions would be combined and that there were 9 articles reviewed for winter and 6 articles for spring to be reviewed during this meeting. The first of which being the Update on Los Angeles County Green Zone Ordinance. Mr. Morell suggested an edit to the second paragraph of the article that would define what the article refers to as "sensitive uses."

While discussing the Los Angeles County Partners with Businesses to Promote Recycled-Content Products, Ms. Teri Muse noted that the article was unclear on explaining the functions of the program. Mr. Mohajer, Ms. Angela Williams, and Ms. Vanessa Olivas explained the function of the program and what the role was of the Los Angeles County Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ). Ms. Nilsson suggested an edit to the first paragraph that would explain what the RMDZ is. Mr. Mohajer agreed with this edit. Mr. Morell, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Teri Muse suggested a few verbiage changes for flow throughout the article.

In discussing the next article, California Climate Action Corps Fellows Assist with Edible Food Recovery Project, Mr. Morell suggested that photos of the

mentioned fellows, Taylor and Jocelyn, should be added to the article. Mr. Mohajer stated that he would like to see a paragraph added to highlight some insights and thoughts regarding the program from Taylor and Jocelyn. Ms. Muse suggested consistency with verbiage throughout the article. Mr. Mohajer also recommended that a link or contact information should be included in the article. Ms. Muse agreed and suggested more structural changes to the article for clarity. Mr. Mohajer and Ms. Williams agreed with the changes. Staff acknowledged the proposed changes and based on the consensus of the Subcommittee, modifications to the article would be made.

While discussing the next article, The New Price of Plastic, Mr. Morell stated that the title did not match the content of the article. Ms. Nilsson also commented on the content of the article and questioned if the current subject matter was beneficial for the readers. Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Morell, and Ms. Nilsson agreed that the focus on the article should be more geared towards challenges faced by various recycling companies. Staff acknowledged this consensus by the Subcommittee.

While discussing the Easy Ways to Exchange Goods article, the subcommittee reached an agreement that there were no edits or supplemental comments needed for the article. The Subcommittee then moved on to review the Extended Producer Responsibility Legislative Initiatives 2021. Ms. Muse suggested examples of "products that are problematic and hard to collect and manage" to be added in the fourth paragraph. Mr. Mohajer suggested a verbiage change to the second and last paragraph and to omit the rest of the article that follows the bullet points, as the legislation mentioned in that portion is tentative.

In discussing additional articles to be written, Mr. Mohajer stated that there will also be an article written regarding Governor Newsom's new budget revision and how the funds will be allocated.

IV. CHAIR REPORT ON TASK FORCE ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Mohajer gave an update on items from the previous Task Force meeting. He provided information on Senate Bill 619, which delays the imposition of penalties on cities and counties by one year. Mr. Mohajer stated that this bill is moving into the assembly and may ultimately get signed. Mr. Mohajer continued to give his update and mentioned Assembly Bill 1, which addresses hazardous waste management. The Task Force voted to oppose as amended due to the bill reorganizing the funding of Department of Toxic Substances and Control, which may negatively impact various hazardous waste programs within Los Angeles County. The final bill detailed was Assembly Bill 1371, which prohibits the use of polystyrene packaging. The Task Force's position

on this bill is to support, subject to staff verifying there are clear alternatives for packaging to be used for perishable products being shipped or exemptions in the bill.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m. The next PEIS meeting is tentatively scheduled remotely for Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 9 a.m.